



The Frozen Dead (Commandant Servaz)

By Bernard Minier

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The Frozen Dead (Commandant Servaz) By Bernard Minier

Saint-Martin-de-Comminges is a small town nestled in the French Pyrenees. The kind of place where winters are harsh and unforgiving and where nothing ever happens.

Until the winter morning when a group of workers discover the headless, flayed body of a horse, hanging suspended from the edge of a frozen cliff.

On the same day the gruesome discovery takes place, Diane Berg, a young psychiatrist starts her first job at a high-security asylum for the criminally insane, just a few miles away. She is baffled by the slightly unorthodox methods the asylum's director uses, and then greatly alarmed when she realizes that drugs are disappearing from within the fortified institution while someone seems to be slipping out at night.

Commandant Martin Servaz, a charismatic city cop from nearby Toulouse fond of quoting Latin, can't believe he has been called out over the death of an animal. But there's something disturbing about this crime that he can't ignore. Then DNA from one of the most notorious inmates of the asylum, a highly intelligent former prosecutor, accused of killing and raping several women, is found on the horse carcass . . . and a few days later the first human murder takes place. A dark story of madness and revenge seems to be unfolding.

Servaz and his colleague, the mysterious Irene Ziegler, must use all their skill to solve the terrifying mystery and best one of the most fiendish and clever opponents they could ever imagine.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Commandant Servaz, a top-notch investigator for the city of Toulouse, France, at the foot of the Pyrenees, relies more on his gut than on science. Servaz is annoyed when he is called away from an investigation to a new crime scene at the hydroelectric plant of Arruns, so high above sea level that the only way to reach it is by cable car. A beheaded body is hung on the upper deck; it is not a human body, however, but rather that of a Thoroughbred horse. This disturbing scene only gets more disturbing when the DNA of an inmate at Institute Wagnier, the nearby psychiatric prison, is found on the horse. This case gets priority as the horse belonged to Eric Lombard, CEO of a multinational company and member of a very influential family with strong political ties to the area. In a parallel story, Diane Berg, a new psychologist, has arrived at the institute and is not entirely welcome, especially after she uncovers flagrant mistreatment of the prisoners. The pervasiveness of evil in this tense and disturbing novel makes for very compelling reading, with the suspense bordering on horror. It should appeal to those who enjoyed Pierre Lemaitre's *Alex* (2013) as well as the edgier Scandinavian thrillers. --Stacy Alesi

Review

"Bernard Minier's *The Frozen Dead* is a terrific thriller that will keep you up long past your bedtime. The French Pyrenees make a wonderfully atmospheric setting for this complex story of past crimes, madness and revenge. Servaz and Ziegler are a fascinating cop duo, and I hope to see more of them in the future. Excellent." ?*Peter Robinson, author of Children of the Revolution and Watching the Dark*

"The pervasiveness of evil in this tense and disturbing novel makes for very compelling reading, with the suspense bordering on horror." ?*Booklist (starred review)*

"Minier's assured debut adroitly combines a genuinely creepy series of crimes, a literally chilling atmosphere, and a dogged detective. Minier's execution equals his considerable cleverness." ?*Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

"Minier...exploits the unusual setting exceptionally well...an absorbing effort.... A high-altitude thriller, this novel is a great summer read for more than the usual reasons." ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"Complex, fast-paced, and completely absorbing, Minier's wickedly plotted mystery has already been published in numerous languages and found a place on international best sellers lists." ?*Library Journal*

"A publishing sensation in France, where it's rushed up the bestseller lists, this is Minier's first crime novel and this translation justifies its vast French reputation....With a villain possessing the intelligence of Thomas Harris's immortal Hannibal Lecter, this is great story-telling, with a creeping sense of dread that would not disgrace Stephen King at his best." ?*Daily Mail*

"This densely written and very atmospheric thriller is Minier's first novel. It has been a bestseller in France and, in this well-translated English edition, deserves to be one here." ?*Literary Review*

"Revenge is at the heart of this clever mystery, which involves a plot as cold-blooded as the slaying of the horse" ?*Sunday Times*

"An enjoyable and fast-paced thriller." ?*Sunday Business Post*

“The writing is razor sharp and nothing goes to waste. Enough to make other authors jealous.” ?*Femme Actuelle*

“Remember the name Bernard Minier... he might well take his place among the masters of French thriller writers.” ?*Le Figaro*

“*The Frozen Dead* is a boiling-hot success.” ?*Le Point*

“Chilling.” ?*Elle*

About the Author

BERNARD MINIER grew up in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. He had a career as a customs official before publishing his first novel, *The Frozen Dead*, in 2011. The novel has been translated into a dozen languages and has garnered critical acclaim as well as several literary prizes in France. Minier lives in the Essonne, south of Paris.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Chris Hernandez:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new details. When you read a book you will get new information since book is one of various ways to share the information or their idea. Second, reading through a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fiction book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to others. When you read this *The Frozen Dead* (Commandant Servaz), you could tells your family, friends along with soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a book.

Beverly Bell:

Often the book *The Frozen Dead* (Commandant Servaz) has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Kimberly Dyer:

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Jacqueline Britt:

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